

NSS Vertical Section Annual Business Meeting (Draft)

August 2nd, 2018

Capitol High School, Helena Montana

1. **Call to Order:** The meeting was called to order at 8:02 am in room 105 of Capitol High School. The number of members present was 15.
2. **Announcements:** Terry Mitchell announced the VS is a legally established corporation in the state of North Carolina and the executive committee is the board of directors. We are required to have at least one meeting per year. Planning is already underway for the 2019 NSS convention. Terry introduced the members of the executive committee.
(<http://caves.org/section/vertical/board.html>)
3. **Approval of minutes:** Minutes from the June 21, 2017 meeting were posted on the Yahoo group page and available at the meeting. They were approved by unanimous consent as published. Minutes can be found at <https://groups.yahoo.com/neo/groups/nssverticalsection/files>.
4. **Officers Reports.**
 - A. **Chairman's Report:** Terry will be stepping down at this meeting after 6 years on the executive committee. He said he will still remain an active member of the Vertical Section.
 - B. **Secretary's Report:** Ray Sira reported we have 242 members. Emails were sent to people whose membership was expiring and 17 of those were dropped after not receiving a reply. We are behind on mailing the Nylon Highway's to members who have paid for a printed copy. We may discontinue offering printed copies in the future.
 - C. **Treasurer's Report:** A trailer was purchased at the 2017 convention in New Mexico for hauling the Vertical Section's gear. Cost of the trailer, accessories and registration was \$2,041.98. Total amount in the 3 VS accounts is 10,718.97. The report will be posted to the VS Yahoo group page. Errors were found in the reports for the last 2 years. The reports have been corrected and posted to the Yahoo group page.
 - D. **Editors Report:** Terry announced Tim White is stepping down as the Nylon Highway editor. Tim feels the Nylon Highway publication is no longer relevant in the digital age. Terry noted that it would require a change to the bylaws to discontinue it. There were no volunteers for the position. An announcement will be sent out asking for volunteers.
5. **Committee Reports.**
 - A. **Climbing Contest:** Terry reported Bill and Miriam Cuddington were unable to attend this year's convention. The contest was run by committee with Terry acting as site manager. Bill did arrange for PMI to donate the ropes used for the contest and for William Shrewsbury and On Rope 1 to deliver them to the convention. 2 x 200 ft. sections of the rope will be transferred to the Vertical Workshop gear and the rest will be used for contest prizes. There were 47 individual climbers who made 67 climbs, including 1 relay team. We allowed the JSS to use our ropes on

Tuesday and also allowed Bonny Armstrong to use our ropes to teach a small party assisted rescue class on Thursday.

- B. **Rebelay Workshop:** Gary Bush reported there were 25 climbs by 19 climbers. 13 on the basic course and 12 on the intermediate course. Gene Harrison helped with set up while Terry Mitchell and Gary Storrack assisted with the training.
 - C. **Vertical Techniques Workshop:** The workshop coordinator Kurt Waldron was unable to attend the convention. Terry ran the workshop for this convention. We had 18 students and 17 instructors. The cable ladder was eliminated this year due to lack of space. One of the fairground workers tripped the fire alarm during the workshop. Gene suggested looking into the time allotted at each station.
 - D. **Education Coordinator:** Terry reported this position has been vacant since Bruce Smith stepped down a couple of years ago. There is also a vertical training committee that Terry has been heading up but it has not accomplished much this past year. Bonny Armstrong has gone through the student manual and has come up with some revisions but is not ready to present them yet. Tim White and Rick Speaect have volunteered to take on the task of updating the Basic SRT Training Manual.
 - E. **Awards:** Committee chair Ken Alwin was not present but Terry reported there were no recommendations for awards.
 - F. **Bylaws Committee:** The bylaws committee consists of Terry Mitchell and Bill Boehle. Terry reported there has been no activity during the past year.
 - G. **Symbolic Items Chairman:** Bill Boehle's report is included with the Treasurer's report and will be posted to the VS Yahoo group page. Bill is currently looking for someone to take over this position.
 - H. **Web Page:** Gary Bush reported there have been no changes to the website and no submissions of new articles for Nylon Highway's. Gary has added a PDF just this morning "Knots for Cavers" created with information from <https://www.animatedknots.com> . It can be found under training on the VS website. The list of current members needs to be updated. Ray will provide that information.
6. **Old Business.**
- A. The motion approved last year to buy a memorial brick in honor of Dick Mitchell and Bob Thrun still needs to be completed.
 - B. The motion approved last year to nominate Mike Rusin for NSS Fellow also has not been done yet. Gary Bush has agreed to work on this.
7. **New Business.**

A. Bruce Smith motioned that the VS buy a memorial brick in honor of Kirk MacGregor. Seconded by Gary Bush. Motion was approved unanimously. Gene Harrison has volunteered to take care of this.

B. Lee White mentioned he will be working with Tim White to rewrite the basic training course.

8. **Elections**

A. **Secretary-Treasurer (1 year Term):** Gary Bush nominated Ray Sira for another term. There were no other nominations. A motion was made and carried to suspend the rules, and Ray Sira was elected by unanimous consent.

B. **Two "At-Large" Executive Committee Members (2-year terms):** Current executive committee members are Terry Mitchell (Chairman), Bill Boehle (Vice Chairman), Mike Rusin (Member at large) and Gary Napper (Member at large). Terry and Mike's terms are expiring. Bruce Smith nominated Mike Rusin. Gary Bush nominated Terry Mitchell but Terry declined the nomination. Gary Bush nominated Gene Harrison. Gary Bush motion to suspend the rules, and Mike Rusin and Gene Harrison were elected by unanimous consent.

9. **The VS Business Meeting adjourned at 10:15 am.**

10. **Vertical Section Executive Committee Meeting.** A brief meeting was held by the executive committee at the end of the business meeting.

A. **Call to order:** Meeting was called to order at 10:16 am.

B. **The Executive Committee** elected Gene Harrison as Chairman. Mike Rusin was elected Vice Chairman. Appointments made were Bill Cuddington - Contest Chair and Kurt Waldron - Workshop Coordinator. The Editor and Education Coordinator positions will remain unfilled for now.

C. **Meeting was adjourned at 10:39 am.**

The Vertical Session:

1. Gary Bush talked about www.animatedknots.com and his power point presentation available on the VS website at - <http://caves.org/section/vertical/pdf/Knots%20for%20Cavers-II.pdf>

2. Lee White demonstrated a small roller.

3. Vance Nelson demonstrated a thin chest box.

Minutes respectfully submitted by Ray Sira, Vertical Section Secretary-Treasurer January 24th, 2019.